

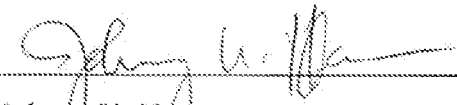
REMARKS

The claims have been amended to better describe a single species. Claims 1-7, 9, 16, 26, 27 and 32-38 are in the application. By this Amendment, claims 8, 10-15, 17-25 and 28-31 have been cancelled. Claims 6, 7 and 9 have been amended. New claims 32-38 have been added. The changes to claim 6 are supported in Fig. 13 and at 0072. The needle 16 in Fig. 1 is shown as a piercing element. The first and second tissue walls are shown in Figs. 10A-D and 13 and first and second anchors are shown in Fig. 13. The stabilization device comprising a tissue holding element is described at 0040 and is shown in one form in Fig. 1 as the coil 24. New claims 32, 35 and 38 are supported at Figs. 10A-D and 13 and at 0060, 0065 and 0072. In claim 32, the suture as used to connect the anchors in claim 6 is described as a connecting element. The grasping assembly in claims 35 and 38 is supported at 0018 and 0068 and at element 90 in Fig. 10A. New claims 33, 34, 36 and 37 are supported by claim 1 as filed and at 0054-55.

In response to the Election Requirement in the September 5, 2006 Office Action, Applicant elects species 1, without traverse. As indicated at paragraph 1 of the September 5, 2006 Office Action, Claim 1 is generic. Based on the groupings of the Figures with the species at paragraph 1 of the September 5, 2006 Office Action, all of the pending claims are species 1. Examination on the merits is requested.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that, in light of the election presented herein, claims 1-7, 9, 16, 26, 27 and 32-38 are presently under consideration. Applicants expressly reserve their right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter during the pendency of this application, or an application claiming priority from this application. Applicants respectfully request examination of the elected subject matter on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



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